

www.fs.fed.us/rl/clearwater/cei/ceihome.htm.

Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing within 30 days from publication of this notice. Send written comments to Douglas Gober, District Ranger, 12370 B Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544.

DATE: The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in November 1999. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed by March 2000.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National

Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217.

Deciding Official

The responsible official for decisions regarding this analysis is James Caswell, Clearwater National Forest Supervisor. His address is 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544. He will decide whether or not to select an action or mix of actions to improve the ecological condition of the analysis area and best meet the habitat needs of elk and other wildlife species.

Point of Contact: Further information about this project can be obtained by contacting George Harbaugh, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at the above address or by calling (208) 476-4541.

Dated: September 28, 1999.

Deanna M. Riebe,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-26464 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Mt. Ashland Ski Area, Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation of a supplement to a final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: On January 19, 1999, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement for the Mt. Ashland Ski Area on the Ashland Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 2873). This notice is being withdrawn because a NOI that specifically reflects the expansion proposal for Mt. Ashland Ski Area will be published. The Forest Service NOI to prepare a supplemental is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Duffy or Steve Johnson, Ashland Ranger District, Rogue River National

Forest, 645 Washington Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520, telephone 541-858-2402; email address is sjohnson/r6pnw.rogueriver@fs.fed.us.

Dated: September 30, 1999.

Robert W. Shull,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-26480 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Mt. Ashland Ski Area Expansion, Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, Oregon

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of the proposed action to expand the Mt. Ashland Ski Area (MASA). The project area is located approximately 7 miles south of Ashland, Oregon, within the Siskiyou Mountains in Southern Oregon. The proposed expansion would include construction of a new chairlift and associated ski runs; a surface lift providing novice skiers access to proposed runs; additional parking areas; maintenance access roads; and necessary supporting infrastructure—sewer, water, and power lines. All proposed expansion projects are within the existing Special Use Permit area boundary. Proposed action would be implemented by MAA after Forest Service authorization is granted. Full implementation is expected to take 2-3 years. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process on the proposed expansion so interested and affected members of the public may participate and contribute in the final decision.

DATES: Additional comments concerning the scope of this analysis should be received by October 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit additional written comments to Linda Duffy, District Ranger, Ashland Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, 645 Washington Street, Ashland, Oregon, 97520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Duffy or Steve Johnson, Ashland Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, 645 Washington Street, Ashland, Oregon, 97520, Telephone (541) 482-3333; FAX (541) 858-2402; email address is sjohnson/r6pnw_rogueriver@fs.fed.us.